

## **Common Core Lesson: Exploring Contemporary Art**

**Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3rd grade**

**Subject: Visual Arts**

**Objective:** Students will be able to understand the concept of contemporary art, explore different techniques and materials used by contemporary artists, and identify famous contemporary artists.

### **Common Core Standards:**

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.K.1: With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.K.7: With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the text in which they appear.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.2: Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.2: Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.2: Write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement or section.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

### **Materials:**

Picture books about contemporary art and artists

Art supplies (paper, crayons, markers, etc.)

Images or prints of artworks by contemporary artists

**Procedure:**

**Introduction (10 minutes)**

Begin the lesson by asking the students, "What is art?" Write their responses on the board.

Explain to the students that today they will learn about a special kind of art called contemporary art, which is made by artists who are alive today.

Show them different examples of contemporary art such as paintings, sculptures, photographs, videos, and installations.

Ask the students to share what they notice about these artworks and how they might be different from other kinds of art.

**Read Aloud (15 minutes)**

Read a picture book that introduces the concept of contemporary art and showcases the work of contemporary artists. Some recommended books include:

"The Museum" by Susan Verde

"An Eye for Color: The Story of Josef Albers" by Natasha Wing

"Yayoi Kusama: From Here to Infinity!" by Sarah Suzuki

As you read, pause to discuss the illustrations and ask questions about the artists and their artworks. Encourage students to share their thoughts and observations.

**Art Exploration (20 minutes)**

Provide art supplies to the students and explain that they will create their own contemporary artworks.

Show them images or prints of artworks by contemporary artists, including Kara Walker, Yayoi Kusama, and Jean-Michel Basquiat. Discuss the techniques and materials used by these artists.

Encourage students to experiment with different techniques and materials to create their own unique artwork. They can use crayons, markers, collage materials, or any other art supplies available.

Walk around the classroom to provide assistance, ask questions, and offer positive feedback on their creations.

### **Sharing and Reflection (10 minutes)**

Give students an opportunity to share their artwork with their peers. They can explain what inspired their artwork and what techniques or materials they used.

Facilitate a discussion about contemporary art, asking questions such as:

What did you enjoy most about creating contemporary art?

How did you choose the materials for your artwork?

What do you think is unique about contemporary art?

How do you feel when you look at contemporary artworks?

Do you have a favorite contemporary artist? Why do you like their work?

### **Wrap-up and Extension Activity (5 minutes)**

Summarize the lesson by emphasizing that contemporary art is made by artists who are alive today and can include various techniques and materials.

Encourage students to continue exploring contemporary art by visiting museums or galleries, reading more books about artists, or creating their own artworks at home.

### **Resources:**

Book: "Kara Walker: My Complement, My Enemy, My Oppressor, My Love" by Kara Walker - This illustrated book provides insights into Kara Walker's work and can be adapted to introduce her art to younger students.

Book: "Yayoi Kusama: From Here to Infinity!" by Sarah Suzuki - This children's book introduces Yayoi Kusama's life and art in a way that is accessible to young readers.

Book: "Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat" by Javaka Steptoe - This picture book is a great introduction to the life and art of Basquiat for young children.

### **Extensions:**

Invite a local contemporary artist to visit the classroom and share their work with the students.



Create a classroom art gallery where students can display their artwork and write descriptions explaining their inspiration and techniques.

Incorporate technology by having students create digital collages using online art tools or explore virtual exhibitions of contemporary art.

Note: The lesson duration can be adjusted based on the needs and attention span of the students.